

NVARC Signal

January, 1993 Volume 1 Number 1

NVARC Constitutional Crisis!

If you weren't at the December meeting, the elections have been postponed. The election process was halted by Article II section 2 which reads as follows:

The officers of the Club shall be elected for a term of one year by ballot of the members present provided there be a quorum, at the annual meeting on the third Wednesday of April. A quorum shall be defined as 20 percent of the voting membership.

There are two choices for getting the elections back on track; wait until April or amend the constitution. Article VII of the constitution reads:

AMENDMENTS: This Constitution or the by-laws may only be amended by a two-thirds vote of the total membership. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting. Notification of all members shall be attempted by mail, and the proposal may not be voted on until the next regular meeting after the notification is made.

Russ, WR1Y, submitted a proposed amendment at the December meeting. This newsletter is formal notification of the proposal. **At the January 21st meeting, a vote will be held.** Now for Russ' pitch:

President's message

You will notice in this month's newsletter a proposed amendment to the constitution of the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club. This change is proposed in order to make the annual election of officers more equitable and manageable. The constitution currently sets the elections on the third Wednesday of April, and oversight during the initial formation of the club. The suggested changes will allow more candidates to be considered, a period of time to evaluate the candidates and finally, a break-in period before the newly elected persons take office.

We have enclosed a proxy form in this month's newsletter for members that may not be able to attend the **January 21st** meeting. It requires a two-thirds majority of the members in good standing to change the constitution. The proxy form will allow you to vote for or against the proposed amendment without being physically present. If you question the rationale, please give me a call so that I'll get a shot at convincing you of the benefits of the new election system.

Russ -- WR1Y, NVARC President.

The following is a transcription of the amendment sheet passed out by Russ at the December meeting:

Moved that the constitution of the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club be amended as follows:

A nomination committee shall be appointed at the monthly meeting in November of each year. This committee shall present a slate of candidates to the collective membership at the December monthly meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at this time. Election of officers shall be held at the January monthly meeting. The newly elected officers shall attend all board meetings and officer functions in concert with the officers of the previous year. At the April monthly meeting the newly elected officers shall assume the full responsibilities of their respective positions. During the three

month period of duality, the decisions of the officers from the previous year shall be binding. The purpose of this amendment is to create a smooth transition between consecutive administrations.

This month's speaker

YOU!

That's right! This month you speak out by voting on the proposed amendment and possibly elect a new slate of officers. Please attend. If you can't attend, please mail your proxy to Duane Long, NVARC Secretary, 37 Valliria Dr. Groton, MA 01450. Voting instructions must be in writing.

What Happened to My Newsletter?

"Hey! What happened to my December newsletter?" Relax, nobody got one. Due to circumstances beyond my control, production of the newsletter was impossible. We're picking up with the January issue. Until the production issues get ironed out, the newsletter will have a different look. Bear with us.

Home-brew Night

At the December meeting there was a grand showing of four home-brew projects. **Bruce, K1BG**, chairing the judging committee promises the results at the January meeting.

Contestants were:

Russ, WR1Y with an iambic keyer paddle made from a pair of doorbell buttons he got at Home Depot.

Ben, KB1FJ, with a 440MHz quad antenna

Bob, W1XP, with two projects: a direct-conversion receiver and an antenna tuner that looks like it could load a bugsplat on 160. Since Bob is one of the judges, it's not clear if he's in the running.

Patrick, KC1TD, with a station control panel that allows switching a single set of headphones and a keyer amongst several radios.

WB1GOF - The Saga Continues

(-or- ask me if I'm ever going to run another article from the usenet....)

EMERGENCY AUTODIAL NUMBERS CHANGE ON WB1GOF REPEATER

Effective today's date changes have been made to the Emergency Autodial numbers accessible through the WB1GOF repeater.

For review, to access the Emergency Autodial features on the repeater, you should first ID yourself and announce who you are calling. Then using the table below, punch in these numbers on your DTMF pad on your radio. All number are preceded by the asterisk key. The repeater will speak the autodial number you have punched in. After the voice is finished, click your mike key once to acknowledge.

You will then hear a series of tones which are masking the DTMF tones being dialed, in a couple of seconds you will hear the phone ringing. When the person answers, announce that you are a two-way radio operator making a report, are you ready to copy? (It is not necessary that you provide your callsign or other personal information unless requested.) Make your report and wait for them to acknowledge.

After the information has been taken and they have disconnected, you must "close" the autopatch with the # (pound symbol) on your keypad. The repeater will announce the call is complete. Once again at that time you should ID yourself.

The new autodial table as follows:

Num	Department	Rptr voice says	new
*910	Westford PD	(WPD)	
*911	State Police	(K3SP)	*
	Concord		
	Barracks		
*912	Littleton PD	(LTPD)	
*913	Acton PD	(ACPD)	
*914	Lowell PD	(LOPD)	
*915	Tyngsboro	(TYPD)	
	PD		
*916	Groton PD	(GRPD)	

*917	Chelmsford PD	(CHPD)
*918	Carlisle PD	(CAPD)
*919	State Police Boston	(SP EMERGENCY) *

*919 can be used for any NH emergency call as well as any Massachusetts highway call. SP Concord would like to get ONLY calls in their jurisdiction... so if you are not sure, use the *919. Please be prepared for a long delay for the ringing to start, we are using the 800 number.

Remember to speak clearly and make sure you are "good" into the repeater... S7 or better!

Public Service Log



A Message From Alan

I'm moving from New England at the end of December, and I would like to thank all of the hams who have helped with Pepperell ARES activities during the past seven years. Our activities have included the following:

- Training sessions with the Ambulance Service
- Meetings with Lowell Red Cross personnel to coordinate activities
- Communications for a lost person search in Lowell
- Communications for local races
- Communications for the annual three-day soccer tournament
- Communications for local parades

Being a ham and EC in Pepperell has been fun, and I take some nice memories with me as I move to Utah to prepare for becoming a school teacher.

73,
Allen, W7RCP

Ham Class Report Card -- Test Results

From Ken Atkins, K1JKR

On December 9th NVARC held its first VE session. For those interested, in the statistics, here they are:

Total Candidates: 16

Total exams administered (code, written and re-takes): 53

Total newly licensed: 6

- Technician with code: 4
- Technician with no code: 1
- Novice: 1

Total passing one or more elements but not qualifying for a license at this exam: 6

Success rate: (licenses/candidates) = 37.5%

Breakdown of candidates by age:

18 and over

Licensed: 6
Partial success: 2

Under 18

Licensed: 0
Partial success: 4

We note that if candidates were grouped as 13 OMs and 3 YLs, the YLs had a success rate of 2/3 or 66.6% (qualified for a license,) whereas the OMs had a 4/13 or 30.8% success rate. I refuse to comment further. HI!

Also, as a matter of record, we had 6 families taking their exams.

The ARRL/VEC has notified me that the FCC forms 610 were submitted to the FCC on December 22nd and that there were not any problems with either the paperwork or the test session. Congratulations to our VE team.

In closing, I wish to thank the following VEs for all of their help in assisting me with the various facets of administering our successful test session:

Ben Akins, KB1FJ
Earl Russell, WR1Y

**Don Stevens, WQ1E
Patrick Taber, KC1TD**

We all look forward to the next one and extend an open invitation to see more of the present and future Advanced and Extra class licensees become accredited VEs and join our team.

73 de K1JKR -- Ken Atkins, VE Team Liaison

[Editor's note -- the FCC has advised that with the holidays the current backlog on licenses is about 90 days. Amateur licenses are processed on Tuesdays and mailed on Thursdays. Please don't call the FCC about your license application until sufficient time has elapsed to warrant concern. In our case, that would be the end of March.]

Nashoba Valley Training Net

By KB1FJ, Net Manager

Rules for Net Discipline

A good net is a disciplined net, and discipline is something that must be enforced by the net control station (NCS) and observed by all net stations. To the extent it is not, the efficiency of the net suffers. Here are some hints to help you help the NCS observe proper circuit discipline.

1) Zero beat your signal with that of the NCS. The net frequency is where the NCS is. Your station should be equipped so you can zero beat NCS without putting a signal on the air. Don't make it necessary for him or her to tell you that you are too low (QNL) or too high (QNH). Make sure you are right on before you QNI.

2) Report in on time. Be ready to QNI at the appointed time. A net cannot operate smoothly if net stations report in three, five or 10 minutes late.

3) List your traffic properly, if you have any. The proper destination first, number of messages second. A prerequisite to this rule is to be familiar with the check-in procedure of the net.

4) Never transmit without the NCS's permission, in a directed net, except in an emergency or when returning from a side frequency assignment. In such cases, make your transmissions ultra-brief.

5) Call the NCS only if you must. This is in line with the above, but occasionally you have a situation that requires you to notify the NCS. Avoid doing this frivolously. If you must be excused, disregard the reason: just ask to be excused. Never call the NCS to advise him he is doing something wrong.

6) On the net frequency, transmit only to the NCS unless he instructs you otherwise. Unauthorized side comments with or to another station are strictly out of order.

7) Answer promptly when the NCS calls you. Stay alert. Don't fall asleep and be caught napping. In a busy net, the NCS may call you only once, and if you don't respond promptly he may assume you have left the net and cross you off the list.

8) Don't leave the net until you are excused by the NCS, either specifically or by a general QNF ("the net is free"). If you must leave the net temporarily, be sure to get the net control's permission first, then report back in as soon as you can.

9) Answer the NCS's questions or inquiries briefly. Avoid long explanations; just answer the question. If he asks if you will volunteer for a liaison job, just say yes (c) or no (n). If the latter, don't explain the reason;

10) Know your procedure. Nothing is more frustrating for an NCS than to have to explain procedure to someone who should be familiar with it. The more thoroughly familiar you are with the procedure the more valuable you are as a net station.

SO HOW COPY?

First, special congratulations to the people who passed their exams at the NVARC test session!

And for those who didn't make it -- don't be discouraged -- review the material and try again. It's worth the effort!

So how about the amendment? Two things jump out at me:

- 1) The new amendment lengthens the commitment of a candidate from 12 months to 15 months.
- 2) Officers newly elected are powerless even though they represent the most recent polling of the membership.

I have to respectfully disagree with our president and provide a counterpoint to the front page:

It seems to me that we are proposing changes to the constitution to cover for having jumped the gun on the election process. Why not have elections in April?

The new amendment is more specific about the election process, but there is nothing in the old rules that prevents using the same process at the appropriate time.

The new amendment mandates a three-month overlap of terms "to create a smooth transition between consecutive administrations." But why? We've never had a change of officers, so it's addressing a hypothetical situation. Is it likely that outgoing officers won't be willing to give incoming officers advice unless it's required? I can't endorse requiring people to spend three months attending meetings when they have no authority.

What do you think? Express your views -- VOTE! If you can't be at the meeting, PLEASE MAIL YOUR PROXY! The worst possible thing that could happen would be a situation where there aren't enough votes to decide the issue.

-- KCITD

Frequencies to remember

- The local 440 repeater is KB1FJ -- 442.9(repeater output) / 447.9 (repeater input)
- The PART 440 repeater is WB1GOF -- 442.45(repeater output)/ 447.45(repeater input)
- The "local frequency" on two meters is 146.49 FM simplex.
- The local CW net meets at 0000 UTC (8:00pm EDT) on 28.166MHz on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Rashoba
Valley
Amateur
Radio
Club**

President: Earl Russell, WR1Y
Vice President: Bruce Blain, K1BG
Secretary: Duane Long, KD1JY
Treasurer: Ben Atkins, KB1FJ

Membership \$12 January to December.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Pepperell VRW hall.

The newsletter is published monthly. Submissions, corrections and inquiries should be directed to the newsletter editor Patrick Taber, KC1TD. Text files on IBM-PC formatted disk preferred, but not required.

Mail address: 42 Brookline St. Pepperell MA 01463-1127.

Usenet address: taber@cimfie.dec.com

Easynet address: CIMFIE::TABER.

Telephone: (508)433-2521 (before 9:30 p.m. please.)

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NVARC Proxy

This is to certify that I _____, a voting member of the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club (NVARC,) have designated the NVARC Secretary as my representative and direct him to cast all votes and express all approvals or disapprovals that I may be entitled to cast or express

____ in favor of

____ against

the proposed change to the NVARC Constitution as reported in the January issue of the NVARC Signal (newsletter.)

This vote will occur at the monthly meeting to be held on January 21st 1993 and any lawfully adjourned meetings thereof, and for all purposes provided by the Articles of Incorporation, the By-Laws and the Constitution.

In no event shall this proxy be valid for a period longer than seven days after the meeting for which it is given. This proxy may be revoked at any time at my request.

Signed _____
Callsign _____

stamp

Duane Long
Secretary, Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club
37 Valliria Dr.
Groton, MA 01450